

Historic, archived document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

1.9
RqRc

LITERATURE
RECEIVED
★ FEB 13 1931 ★

GARDEN CALENDAR

U. S. Department of Agriculture

A radio talk by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered through WRC and 39 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, January 27, 1931.

---oo---

How-do-you-do folks: In the old days of "Log Rollings" and "Barn Raisings," when everybody turned out to help a neighbor clear a piece of land or put up the framework of a new barn, there was always a leader who directed each move of the workmen. That is just what is happening today among fruit and vegetable growers and the reports show that hundreds of grower organizations are now holding their winter meetings and making plans for the coming season. In every case there are one or more outstanding leaders who are directing the work of the group. It has reached the point where the grower who stands alone has very little chance unless he is catering to a strictly local trade and even under those conditions he is at a decided disadvantage.

The problems that beset the fruit and vegetable growers are, as a rule, too difficult to be handled individually. Take for example the recent clean-up of the Mediterranean Fruit Fly in Florida or the control of Citrus Canker or the Citrus mite. The apple growers of the Pacific northwest, and elsewhere for that matter, have had their problems in the control of apple insects and later the problem of spray residue removal. While the problems confronting the citrus growers of the country are vastly different from those of the apple and peach growers, there are certain points in common and most of these can best be met through team work under competent leadership. If ever, in the history of the fruit and vegetable industry, it was desirable for everyone concerned to pull together that time is right now.

Research workers in the colleges and experiment stations have done their part in working out control measures for most of the insects and diseases of fruits and vegetables, otherwise the growers would have something really worth while to worry about. The timely application of the prescribed remedies is, however, up to the growers and here is where team work counts. Take for example the application of dormant sprays to fruit trees, it has been found that where the orchards are small this work for a whole community can be most economically done by forming a spray ring and having one man with a high-power spray outfit apply the spray to as many as 15 or 20 orchards within a radius of three or four miles. The cost of the spraying is apportioned on the basis of the number of gallons of spray mixture applied to each orchard.

The selection and breeding of disease resistant varieties or strains, especially of vegetables, is proving to be a very effective method of preventing losses. Good examples are found in the Wisconsin Yellow Resistant strains of cabbage and the Fusarium wilt disease resistant varieties of tomatoes. The Marglobe tomato is perhaps the most outstanding and in addition to its

Over

disease resistance it is very smooth, meaty and of splendid flavor, making it desirable for canning and manufacturing. This year another new tomato is making its debut, it is the new Break O'Day which is similar to Marglobe in many ways but ripens about ten days earlier so bids fair to become the leading early tomato. Practically all of the seedsmen offer seed of Marglobe and some of them catalog Break O'Day but the seed of the latter is in the hands of seed growers and by another year all of the seed houses will be able to supply it. The introduction of these two new varieties of tomato will mean millions of dollars of added profits for tomato growers the country over.

I mentioned the control of the citrus mite which attacks all kinds of citrus trees and their fruits in the Gulf Coast Region, causing severe injury to the trees themselves and also the russetting of the outer skin of the fruits. Now I don't suppose this will interest those of you who are not citrus growers, except that you may like a nice, bright colored, juicy, sweet orange for your breakfast. Badly russeted fruit frequently does not have the best flavor. The results of numerous experiments in the control of the citrus mite are given in U. S. Department of Agriculture Technical Bulletin No. 176, copies of which can be procured from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C. A charge of 15 cents is made for this bulletin.

In accordance with my policy of encouraging farmers and people who have the space for a garden to produce more of their living at home I want to remind you that it is high time that gardens were planted in the more southern and warmer parts of the country and that it is time to be ordering seeds, making hotbeds and starting early plants in the north central or temperate sections. This work should not start for nearly a month in the more northern sections bordering on the Canadian line. Don't fail to plant a few early potatoes for home use also plenty of turnips, carrots, beets, peas, beans, lettuce, spinach, cabbage, onions, tomatoes, summer squash and sweet corn. There are other desirable ones but these are the main food vegetables.

Here is a letter that I wish to read to you. It is dated January 6th, 1931 and reads as follows: Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., - Gentlemen: Please send me the government's best advise, in book form, on general farming as carried on in Wisconsin and Illinois. Thanking you in advance for this favor, I am, yours truly, signed, Edward Summers but bears no address to which reply can be sent or literature forwarded. The Department receives many letters that are either unsigned or without adequate address, and can not be answered for that reason. Be sure that you write your name and address plainly.

Evidently many of you enjoyed our broadcast of the meeting of the Progressive Garden Club last Tuesday for we have had a regular shower of requests from persons who want to be enrolled as members of the club. Please be a little patient and we will reply and send you literature on the improvement of home surroundings just as quickly as our clerks can handle your letters. The next meeting of the club will be on Tuesday, February 24th, and the subject of the discussion will be care of lawns and special fertilizers for the lawn and garden.